

TO: Juvenile Welfare Board Members

FROM: James E. Mills, Executive Director 
H. Browning Spence, Director, Strategic & Community Planning 

Requested Action

The Board is requested to allocate up to \$89,792 for the period of February 10, 2000 to September 30, 2000 to the Lealman Family Center, Inc. with Family Service Centers of Pinellas County, Inc. acting as fiscal agent for a three-year Neighborhood Family Center Capacity Building Grant.

Options

1. Approve the request.
2. Deny the request.
3. Any other action directed by the Board.

Recommended Action

- 1a. Allocate up to \$89,792 (\$125,950 annualized) for the period from February 10, 2000 to September 30, 2000 to Lealman Family Center, Inc. with Family Service Centers as fiscal agent for a three year capacity building grant for a Neighborhood Family Center.
- b. Budget \$125,950 for 2000-2001.

Source of JWB Funds

FY 99-00 Neighborhood Family Center Funds
FY 00-01 Budget

Fiscal Impact

The FY 99-00 Neighborhood Family Center funds will be reduced from \$104,405 to \$14,613. The 2000-2001 Budget will include a request for \$125,950 for the Lealman Family Center (subject to the TRIM Process)

Narrative

In November 1996, the Board approved targeting three neighborhoods, Ridgecrest, High Point and Lealman for community development initiatives in collaboration with Pinellas County Community Development and the Department of Children and Families. In February 1999, the Lealman Steering Committee received a ten-month planning grant for \$22,200 for FY 99-00. The Lealman Optimist Club acted as their fiscal agent for the grant. (Near the end of this grant, they received a mini-grant of \$5000 from Promoting Safe and Stable Families to be able to continue writing their capacity building grant while keeping the Center and St. Petersburg YMCA Outreach Program open.) The Lealman Family Center is located at 4070 58th Avenue North on the property of the Lealman United Methodist Church.

During this planning grant, the Steering Committee made up of community residents, and representatives of the St. Petersburg Family YMCA, Lealman Optimist Club, and Lealman United Methodist Church with the support of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Community Police Officers accomplished the following objectives:

- Developed two community surveys to collect information from residents and businesses about what their community needs. One hundred thirty six (136) residents and fifteen (15) businesses were interviewed.
- Sponsored four family nights, three neighborhood carnivals, and two open houses while continuing to conduct surveys at these events
- Hired a part time administrative assistant
- Developed fiscal and personnel policies
- Trained steering committee in board/staff roles and responsibilities, asset mapping and strategic planning
- Analyzed the social indicators, surveys, interviews, Eckerd College study of the Lealman community and created a community action plan
- Identified the community services, local businesses, public services and churches who will partner with them for community change

The information gathered revealed community needs and areas to develop.

From the surveys and interviews, the community wants:

- More child care for low income families
- Before and after school care, summer camps, and recreation programs
- Developed green spaces with recreational facilities and programs
- Support programs for teen parents, grandparents and families raising children
- Intergenerational programs
- Neighborhood computer center
- Neighborhood newsletter
- Comprehensive arts program
- Job skills training
- Home ownership and budgeting classes
- Family fun days, community events, picnics, holiday parties
- Need for neighbor to help neighbor with home repairs, especially for the seniors

Residents indicated they would like Lealman to be a more aesthetically attractive community, with opportunities for families and children.

Lealman Family Center plans on hiring an executive director, administrative assistant and outreach worker to plan programs and offer services, (An outreach worker will work with volunteers to create intergenerational and parent support groups, provide home visits, share early childhood information for school success and make referrals to community resources.) The Lealman Family Center will create, train and guide subcommittees in the following: community events, community newsletter, emergency food pantry/clothing closet, fundraising, personnel and fiscal issues and expand their organizational capacity by getting their 501©3, federal tax exempt designation. Board and staff training is planned that will develop leadership skills and knowledge while the Lealman Family Center continues to recruit other board members. Community education and training will address life skill issues and relationship building.

During the next 7 months the Lealman Family Center will:

1. Identify and work with a minimum of 25 (50 annualized) families with children 0-6 years of age.
2. Promote and sponsor community-building activities that encourage volunteerism, community leadership while offering support to families.
3. Provide minimum of two (four annualized) training workshops for board and staff that will develop leadership skills and knowledge.
4. Develop a center brochure and newsletter to disseminate information to the community about events, activities and resources.
5. Create, guide and train sub committees that address neighborhood concerns.
6. Provide child and youth development activities to young parents, grandparents raising children, single-parents and families on issues of concern.
7. Increase the size and leadership potential of the board.
8. Bring together human and public services, schools, churches and businesses to work together for community change.

More specific program objectives will be set for FY 2000-2001. Funds during the February 2000 to September 2000 Budget would be used for start-up and operating costs to hire three staff members, set up office equipment and make the renovation necessary to establish the neighborhood family center offices. Family Service Centers of Pinellas County, Inc. was asked to act as the family center's fiscal agent due to their active commitment to providing neighborhood and community support programs in the Lealman Community. Family Service Centers will provide fiscal management and training as well as the audit in order to comply with JWB contract requirements. Family Service Centers of Pinellas, Inc. has offered to provide these services at no cost to the Lealman Family Center. Incorporation papers have been filed by the Lealman Family Center. Upon receipt of their incorporation (expected mid February) the contract will be executed.

Staff recommends that the Board approve a capacity building grant for the Lealman Community to commence implementation of the neighborhood family center plan. The Lealman Steering Committee has demonstrated, through successful completion of all objectives in their planning grant, many organizational and programmatic skills that are needed to administer a neighborhood family center. This capacity building grant will provide the means for more neighborhood leadership training, staff development, fiscal, personnel and programmatic skills necessary to manage a neighborhood family center.

Staff Resource Persons: Patty Van Alstine
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